



MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: BOB FLETCHER, ATM ENGINEERING
SUBJECT: ENGINEERING UPDATE
DATE: JULY 20, 2010
CC: ANTHONY W. BARRETT, TOWN MANAGER

Facilities/Asset Management Update:

- Completed 5 drainage/ditch maintenance projects. Another 5 will go out to bid during July.
- Completed the Calhoun Street inlet upgrades.
- Finalized negotiations for the new Waste Management contract. The new lower fees went into affect July 1 and will save approximately \$175,000 annually.
- 4,715 homes are receiving trash/recycling service as of June 30th, of which 21 were new that month. Responded to 5 concerns and received 6 requests for service from citizens not within the Town limits.
- Notified Old Town residents regarding the discontinuance of yard debris pick up. Buildings and Grounds staff will now focus more on maintenance that is currently contracted out.
- Began conducting Buildings and Grounds weekly safety meetings.
- Processed 9 applications (review, meetings, follow up) for Rotary Community Center rentals and booked 6.
- Completed upgrade of Rotary Community Center security system.
- Conducted 8 Special Events meetings/follow ups with applicants and reviewers.
- Assisting architect Joe Hall with plans for potential upgrades to the Self Help building (Town owned) for Council consideration.
- Refining disaster and recovery logistics plans i.e. Town Hall and staff relocations, functions, and other support services.
- Completed an in-house analysis of recreation facilities and programs in Bluffton area.
- Construction of the new Buildings and Grounds facility continues and is on schedule to be complete by early September.

Engineering Update:

- Engineering staff members Jeff Wiggins, Karen Jarrett, Laura Budak, and James Ayers participated on the Code Overhaul Review Teams with Growth Management
- James Ayers attended the Annual CDBG Workshop on June 16th in Columbia focusing on Environmental Reviews
- Along with other senior staff members, Bob Fletcher and James Ayers facilitated tables at the Citizen Forum held on June 19th for the Town of Bluffton Strategic Plan with good input received from all participating citizens.
- Held groundbreaking for the Law Enforcement Center on June 24th
- Held groundbreaking ceremony for Phase 1 of the Buck Island Road Sewer Project on July 7th

Transportation Update:

Staff has worked closely with the county and the state on several of the following projects many of which are included under the one cent sales tax program. Projects of particular interest include:

- Participation with the county and state in construction update meetings for ongoing construction of Simmonsville and SC 46.
- Participation with the county in determining the path forward for construction and/or construction bidding on Bluffton Parkway Phase 5A.
- Participation with the county and state on US 278 including discussions of water quality.
- Participation with the county on SC 170 including discussions on Right of Way and drainage.
- Participation with the county and the Beaufort County Transportation Committee on dirt road paving and secondary road overlays.
- Participation in discussions and investigation of Buckwalter Commercial Frontage Road
- Attended SCDOT Commission meeting on June 17, 2010.

Please see attachment 2 for updates on each specific project. Attachment 3 summarizes the recent SCDOT Commission meeting held in Hardeeville attended by our Transportation Project Manager, Karen Jarrett.

CIP Update:

Old Town Improvements

May River Road/Bruin Road Streetscape: Construction Phase

- Awaiting SCDOT participation agreement being prepared in Columbia.

Wayfinding Signage: Design Phase

- Design work should be complete in early July.
- Approvals needed from SCDOT, Preserve America Grant, State Archives & History, and Private Property Easements.

Town Facilities

Law Enforcement Center: Construction Phase

- Continued vertical construction (foundation, masonry block walls) and horizontal construction (sanitary sewer & stormwater system).
- Held groundbreaking ceremony; Held IT/radio/security meeting with County, architects, contractor, subs; Held meetings with Hargray, Palmetto Electric, others.

Buildings & Grounds Relocation: Construction Phase

- Construction underway and still on schedule for September occupancy.

Sewer & Water

Buck Island Sewer (Phase 1): Construction Phase

- Jordan Construction started installing sanitary sewer and water distribution infrastructure.
- Coordinated construction issues with stakeholders including landowners, BJWSA, Beaufort County, other.

Buck Island Sewer (Phase 2): Design Phase

- Worked on permit comments and revisions for DHEC-OCRM (land disturbance) and DHEC-EQC (water and wastewater).
- Prepared preliminary easement plats and performed deed/ownership research; Coordinated with LCOG on easements acquisition steps.

Buck Island Sewer (Phase 3): Applied for grant

- Determination on grant application expected in July from State Department of Commerce.

Old Town/Maiden Lane Sewer: Design/Construction Phase

Bruin Road:

- 5 of 5 LMI sewer hookups complete. Some Non LMI's (2) have started the connection process.

Maiden Lane:

- Trunk line and road overlay complete. Awaiting BJWSA certifications. Once received, will bid and award LMI plumbing connections.

Stormwater-Small Projects: Design/On Going Construction Phase

- Five projects completed, with five (5) other projects to be bid in July.

Verdier Cove Drainage Basin: Implementation Phase

- Completed maintenance work south of Red Cedar into B-11.
- Continue visual flow monitoring.
- Discussion underway with County regarding road impediment.

Park Development

Parks & Recreation Improvements: Concept Phase

- Continuing to use funds for small Park expenditures. In progress on project to create 12 interpretive signs for New River Trail.

Oyster Factory Park: Implementation Phase 1

- Received OCRM permit and ACE Permit.
- Construction contract award completed with JS Construction.
- Work sequence revised, ramp work scheduled after Labor Day with construction completion by October 31st.

DuBois Park: Concept Phase

- Same - No Change.

Pathways

New River Trail Head: Design Phase

- Construction contract award completed with JS Construction
- Construction targeted for completion by the end of September.

Buckwalter Place Greenway Trail: Design Phase

- Surveying and preliminary designs completed. Held project meeting on June 22nd to discuss information provided and path forward.
- Final designs anticipated by the end of July with construction bidding in August.

Buck Island/Simmons ville Pathway: Concept Phase

- Evaluations nearing completion.
- SCDOT reviewing constructed sidewalk; Punch list will be routed to school.

Attachments:

1. Verdier Cove Drainage Basin
2. Transportation Update
3. June SCDOT Commission Meeting

Verdier Cove Drainage Basin

Action Items Update 7-12-2010

Attachment 1

Number	Activity	Status
1	Remove sections of the logging road in B-11	Complete
2	Survey Bluffton Park Lagoons (B-9, B10 & B-5)	Complete: Lagoons constructed per design documents
3	Verify flow south of Hidden Lakes	Complete: Thomas & Hutton confirmed flow moves south into B-11 where historical flow is to the north
4	Perform Ditch Maintenance	1) Completed from 278 south to Red Cedar and into B-11 2) Discussing remaining road impediments with County 3) Continuing visual monitoring
5	Temporarily block flow from B-11 and into Teardrop Lagoon	Complete
6	Supplemental Measurements	Complete: Report submitted March 16, 2010
7	Lower operating levels of B-9, B-10 & B-5 to planned design level of 17'	Hold pending results of activity #4
8	Determine basis of Stockfarm filtration outflow	Hold pending results of activity # 4

Lisa Sulka
Mayor

Fred Hamilton Jr.
Mayor Pro Tempore

Anthony Barrett
Town Manager



Council Members
Michael Raymond
Oliver Brown
Allyne Mitchell

Sandra Lunceford
Town Clerk

To: Mayor and Council

From: Karen Jarrett, Transportation Project Manager

Re: Transportation Update

Date: July 20, 2010

Roads:

- May River/Bruin Road Streetscape:
Punch list awaiting review by SCDOT.
Town received SCDOT approval to administer grant. Field meeting met with approval. Project Planning Report approved by SCDOT. SCDOT preparing Participation Agreement for funding.
- SC 46 (May River Road): SC 46 is being scheduled for overlay from the roundabout to the Jasper County line. The announcement is on SCDOT's website for public comment.
- SC 46 (Bluffton Road)
Construction is underway from Bluffton Village to US 278 widening to 4 lanes with median, bike lanes and sidewalk. Completion is scheduled in December, 2010. Study supporting lane reduction on Bluffton Road from Bluffton Village to 4 way stop reducing lanes to 2 lanes with bike lanes and parking as traffic calming and pedestrian friendly measure nearer Old Town is in final revision. Study will be sent to SCDOT for review. Staff will meet with SCDOT to discuss striping options based on report outcome.
- Simmonsville Road:
Construction is underway from US 278 to Bluffton Parkway widening to 4 lanes with median, bike lanes and sidewalk. Completion is scheduled for December, 2010. The rest of Simmonsville is being scheduled for overlay and shoulder construction. Bid was let on June 8, 2010. Award should be announced in July. Construction is likely late summer - early fall.

20 Bridge Street P.O. Box 386 Bluffton, South Carolina 29910

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- **Burnt Church Road:**
Construction of the section from US 278 to Bluffton Parkway is complete.
Burnt Church is being scheduled for overlay and shoulder construction from Bluffton Parkway to Bruin Road. This project may be let in the near future.
- **US 278:**
Design is being completed for widening from 4 to 6 lanes from Simmonsville Road to SC 170. Presently, letting is anticipated in October or November and construction is anticipated to take 2 years.
- **Bluffton Parkway, Phase 5A:**
Design is being revised to terminate at Buckingham Plantation. Funds are less than envisioned, but have been budgeted for the abbreviated section. The bridge has been delayed to a later phase.
- **Bluffton Parkway, Phase 5B:**
Placed on hold indefinitely. It was not a high enough priority to fund.
- **Frontage Roads:**
Plantation Park has been awarded and construction should be underway in the near future.
St Gregory's is completing litigation.
The Gatherings frontage road is complete.
Other frontage roads were either rejected by residents, are being constructed by private entities or are in Right of Way acquisition.
- **SC 170:**
Original design plans are nearly complete.
The Town has requested revisions requiring redesign and approval by SCDOT. A letter, written to SCDOT Secretary Limehouse, requests reconsideration of the design with concerns over pedestrian safety and interconnectivity.
Funding and the consideration of redesign have resulted in delay for these improvements. The county is working with SCDOT to overlay the existing roadway with shoulders which will improve safety, but funds are not readily available. The Town is working with developers along the corridor to donate Right-of-Way.
- **Buck Island Road:**
Overlay of Buck Island is complete
The school completed a left turn lane.
Old Carolina development has installed a left turn lane at the intersection with Simmonsville
SCDOT has added intersection improvements at Buck Island and May River through Lowcountry Council of Governments to their guideshare program. A roundabout is planned.
- **Buckwalter Commercial Frontage Road:**
Questions being raised about responsibility for construction and rationale for median closure. Staff is working with the county and the state to clarify issues.

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Dirt Roads and Beaufort County Transportation Committee

- Ongoing prioritizing of dirt road recommendations for paving. Staff working to evaluate roads and available Right of Way in Buck Island/Simmons ville neighborhood as well as other Town areas.
- Prioritized overlay list adjusted to include all road sections requested.

Pathways

- Buck Island:
Sidewalks have been installed by the school south of Hyon (New Mustang). SCDOT is reviewing construction of the sidewalk. They have expressed concern over the proximity of the sidewalk to the roadside ditch.
- Simmons ville:
Sidewalks have been constructed by the school in the vicinity of Hyon (New Mustang).
- Staff is evaluating additional sidewalk installation. Cost and construction coordination are high on the list of considerations as the evaluation proceeds. Staff hopes to have information for Council in the near future.

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To: Anthony Barrett, Town Manager
Bob Fletcher, Assistant Town Manager, Engineering
Marc Orlando, Assistant Town Manager, Growth Management

From: Karen Jarrett, Transportation Project Manager

Date: July 12, 2010

Subject: June SCDOT Commission Meeting

The Commission meeting was preceded by a workshop dealing with funding including additional funds for Guidesshare Programs through the Metropolitan Planning Organization and Council of Governments. When I arrived, the discussion at that point centered around maintenance and construction issues. There was discussion about the gas tax and there were a few calls to give roads back to local governments with some funding provided to make the acceptance of the roads more palatable.

Commissioner Forrest suggested development of a position paper he hoped to undertake which would clearly identify the issues faced by SCDOT to use as an education tool for the commission and legislators. This idea was expanded into education of all citizens. No resolution was forthcoming, but the exchange of ideas was informative.

The Commission meeting began with a presentation by Ted Felder of Hardeeville to the Commission on Exit 3 and the importance of this exit on economic development. He referred to the interchange as regional and presented a slide which showed Allendale, Hampton, Jasper and Colleton counties. He suggested the interchange would provide hurricane evacuation would also be improved through traffic routed from SC 170 to 95 through Purrysburg Road. There was no mention of Highway 278A or Bluffton Parkway. There was a demonstration of the proximity of the interchange to Savannah Port and Jasper Port.

Another individual, Mr. Preston, provided an update on progress with Jasper Port. He indicated the port construction would take 10 to 12 years and stated that we were in Year 2. He also discussed the status of roadway improvements that may provide transportation

support to the port including SC 170. His timetable differed from that presented in the Beaufort County Sales Tax Report.

Questions asked about the presentations included questions regarding clearance over the railroad for double stack containers and a question regarding whether resurfacing of SC 170 might be performed in the short term.

There were a few reports including legislative suggestions on road naming. Of note here was a suggestion to rename a bridge in Bluffton the Thomas G Heyward Memorial Bridge on Bridge Street over Heyward Cove. The Commission approved all suggestions. In addition, there was discussion regarding funding for guideshare projects. The method for distribution of funds is being discussed for changes which would reflect vehicle miles traveled rather than population. It will result in increased funding for this region.

An additional funding source is federal monies which may be available for cost overruns. These funds may benefit Beaufort County sales tax projects, but the criteria for funding are fairly structured. Nevertheless, the monies may be useful.

The Council took action on recommendations which included the following:

- Additions/deletions and revisions to the State Highway System
- New surplus property to sell
- Execution of Construction Contracts – Regular Letting
- Execution of Consultant Contracts
- Contract Modifications
- State Procurement Contracts
- Special Contracts – Department of Wildlife

The Council also took action on ratification of several items which include:

- Extension of Construction Contracts
- Execution of Construction Contracts – ARRA lettings
- Section 57-1-370 (N) Work orders, permits, sign requests, etc.

Information was provided to the Commission on the following:

- Surplus property sold
- Change Orders greater than \$150,000
- Contract Modifications
- Section 57-1-460 Items [Secretary of Transportation level] Work orders, permits, sign requests, etc.

They also approved a State Bike Ped Program with associated funding provided through enhancement monies. STIP amendments were also approved. None of these amendments appeared to affect the LowCountry Council of Governments.

Mr. John Walsh provided a bit more information on the workshop items including resurfacing monies, Congestion Management and Air Quality monies as well as the guideshare monies.

The meeting adjourned. Discussions ensued after the meeting including Rob McFee and Ted Felder discussing the interchange. There was a general offer of assistance and request to be included in the discussions. Mr. Felder and I discussed the meeting, the interchange and the need for regional cooperation.